TL 1143

From: Akihisa Matsuno 8 May 1991, 9 p.m. Fax Number +81-370-8314

To all solidarity groups on East Timor

Dear Friends,

Yesterday I sent you the draft of the Statutes of the IFET. Immediately after that there were responses and we made amendments to the Statutes. If you are yet to discuss the contents, please keep in mind that these Statues are only for the registration. Here it is not intended to set up a centralized structure by this new organization. Rather, we want all groups to do just like now taking their own initiative in all activities. The Secretariat of the IFET is not more than an address and any job must be done by somebody or a member group in respective cases.

(1) Article 4. President: We omit the paragraph 3. And paragraph 1 becomes:

(1) The IFET appoints one President who represents the IFET as a whole.

The reason ~~is~~ for this change ~~this~~ is the present paragraph gives too much responsibility to President.

(2) Article 5. Secretariat: We reduce the number of the tasks from 7 to 3. These 3 are:

(1) to promote to collect and disseminate information on various aspects of the present conditions in East Timor and its decolonization process inside and outside the territory as well as on activities of member NGOs in regard to East Timor,
(2) to foster communication among member NGOs,
(3) to prepare an annual report and financial accounts for submission to the annual Consultative Assembly of the IFET.

The reason for these amendments is that the present Secretariat will have too many jobs which can cause centralization. Actually we don't want that the Secretariat has many things to do. It doesn't match our style and will cost much. The underlined 'promote' is a word I put here.

(3) 6-D. Resolutions: Para 3 and 4 are changed as follows.

(3) A resolution is adopted with majority vote.
(4) Any change in a part or in the whole of the Statutes must be approved by a vote of three-fourth.

Actually these are not substantial changes. In any case the majority must be 50% plus one.

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There was a question about funding. We are aware that not all groups can contirbute to funding the IFET. We have to find a way. This is an item for discussion in the next meeting. If most of us agree that this project is worth to invest, then we will do that. But if not, we continue this with a modest budget. My personal opinion is $100 a year per group, or a group of groups. (Because in Japan there are 10 groups which form the Coalition.) The amount can be flexible. But if that amout is impossible, we have to manage to run the Secretariat within these financial limitations.

On Friday, Kiyo and Mr. Ohtori Kurino as President perhaps will go to meet the Director of UN Center in Tokyo to get recommendation from him. But we have feelings that it will be rather difficult to convince him about our project. Tomorrow morning I have to send the materials about the IFET to the UN Center via fax. Those include the Statutes. This means today is the final chance to make further amendments to the Statutes.

Best wishes,

Aki